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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 /115 W
----------085850 181754Z /41
R 171010Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 1001

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, PINS, SGEN, MZ
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE ASSESSMENT: RELATIONS WITH UHE COMMUNISTS

1. SUMMARY. MOZAMBIQUE HAS DRAWN CLOSER TO THE COMMUNIST STATES, PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION, GDR AND CUBA. DURING THE PAST YEAR IT PLAYED HOST TO FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT NICOLAI PODGORNY AND CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO, SIGNED A FRIENSHIP TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAT PROVIDES FOR MILITARY CONSULTATION AND INCREASED ITS RELIANCE ON COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. AT ITS THIRD PARTY CONGRESS IN MARCH 1977, FRELIMO FORMALLY BECAME A MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY AND PASSED RESOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH
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MOZAMBIQUE AS A MARXIST-LENINIST STATE. THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHINESE CONTINUED TO EBB, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE CHINESE MAY BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN MOZAMBIQUE. WHILE MOZAMBIQUE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THE COMMUNIST STATES AND SUPPORT COMMUNIST POSITIONS ON MOST GLOBAL ISSUES, WE BELIEVE THE MOZAMBICANS ARE WAY OF INCREASING THEIR RELIANCE ON THE SOVIETS AND

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WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE COM-
MUNIST ORBIT. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET UNION: THE SOVIETS HAVE GONE FROM STRENGHT TO
STRENGTH. THE HAVE;
--SIGNED A WIDE-RANGING TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH MOZAM-
BIQUE;
--HAD A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE BY PRESIDENT
PODGORNY:
--ARRANGED FOR REGULAR STOPS BY UNITS OF THEIR INDIAN
OCEAN FLEET;
--CONFERRED THE LENIN PEACE PRIZE ON PRESIDENT MACHEL:
--STEPPED UP THEIR SHIPMENT OF ARMS, INCLUDING TANKS AND
HEAVY ARTILLERY, TO THE MOZAMBIQUE MILITARY:
--DESPATCHED ARMY ADVISORS (PROBABLY 60) TO TRAIN MO-
ZAMBICAN ARMY PERSONNEL;
--ACCEPTED SIZABLE NUMBERS OF MOZAMBICAN SOLDIERS FOR
MILTARY TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION;
--ESTABLISHED A FISHING FLEET IN MAPUTO AND BEIRA;
--PROVIDED A INCREASED NUMBER OF DOCTORS, UNIVERSTIY
TEACHERS AND OTHER AID PERSONNEL TO MOZAMBIQUE: AND
--ESTABLISHED A LINK BETWEEN EDUARDO MONDLAND UNIVER-
SITY AND PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY.

3. THE MOZAMBICAN RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT PODGORNY IN
MARCH 1977 WAS AN INDICATION OF THE EARNESTNESS WHICH MO-
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ZAMBIQUE ATTACHES TO ITS ITES WITH THE "SOCIALIST" COUN-
RIES, PARTICULARLY THE USSR. NOT ONLY WAS PODGORNY EX-
TENDED THE TYPE OF TREATMENT HERETFORE EXTENDED ONLY TO
PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND NYERERE BUT A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP
WAS SIGNED, MAKING MOZAMBIQUE ONLY THE THIRD COUNTRY IN
AFRICA WITH WHOM FRIENDSHIP TREATIES HAVE BEEN SIGNED,
THE OTHER TWO BEING ANGOLA AND SOMALIA. MOZAMBIUE HAS
CLEARLY TURNED TO THE USSR AS THE PRIME SUPPLIER FOR ITS
DEFENSE NEEDS AND THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THEY
HAVE SOUGHT (APPARENTLY WITH LITTLE SUCCESS) CAPITAL DE-
VELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIETS AS WELL.

4. IN RETURN FOR THEIR LARGESSE, THE SOVIETS HAVE GAINED
THE USE OF MOZAMBIQUE PORTS FOR THEIR INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL
VESSELS AND HAVE ADDED TO THE INFLUENCE THEY ALREADY WIELDED
IN MOZAMBIQUE. SO FAR THE SOVIETS HAVE PLAYED THEIR CARDS
CAREFULLY. THEY HAVE NOT MADE ANY MAJOR BLUNDERS IN THEIR
MOZAMBIQUE POLICY OR ANY DEMANDS THAT RUN COUNTER TO MOZAM-
BICAN NATIONAL POLICIES AND INTERESTS. HOWEVER, THIS COULD
CHANGE. A FEW SECOD ECHELON MOZAMBICAN OFFICIALS HAVE
EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS
NOT GIVEN MOZAMBIQUE ANY CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

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AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CHARGING HARD CURRENCY FOR THE SERVICES OF ITS AID TECHNICIANS. RECENT REPORTS THAT AEROFLOT REPRESENTATIVES IN MAPUTO WERE INVOLVED IN QUESTIONABLE FOREING CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS HAVE ALSO RAISED A FEW EYEBROWS. DESPITE THESE MINOR ANNOYANCES, SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MAPUTO 1001

5. THE PRC: SOVIET, CUBAN AND GDR GAINS HAVE COME AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PRC. WHILE THE PRC CONTINUES TO SUPPLY A SMALL NUMBER OF ARMY ADVISORS, DOCTORS, AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS AND HAS LIMITED ACCESS TO THE PRESS TO PRINT PROPAGANDA HANDOUTS, ITS INFLUENCE IN MAPUTO HAS WANED. IN JANUARY 1977 THE PRC AMBASSADOR, LIN CHUNG, WAS RECALLED AND HAS NOT AS YET BEEN REPLACED. MOZAMBICAN OFFICIALS MADE SOME EFFORT FOLLOWING THE PODGORNEY VISIT TO REASSURE THE CHINESE THAT THEY WISH TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. THE CHINESE HAVE APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THESE ASSURANCES AND HAVE RECENTLY SENT AN AID SURVEY TEAM TO MOZAMBIQUE AND HAVE PROVIDED ONE SHIPMENT OF WHEAT, THE FIRST

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MATERIAL AID FROM THE PRC SINCE INDEPENDENCE. WE HAVE ALSO
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HEARD THAT MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT MARCELINO DOS SANTOS (NUMBER TWO IN THE GOVERNMENT) MAY SOON BE VISITING CHINA AND THAT SOME MOZAMBICAN MILITARY CADRES WILL BE GOING TO THE PRC FOR TRAINING. IF TRUE, THESE MOVES PROBABLY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT BY BOTH THE GPRM AND THE PRC TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS.

6. CUBA: THE LEVEL OF CUBAN ACTIVITY HAS PICKED UP SINCE THE BRIEF BUT SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO IN MARCH 1977. DURING THAT VISIT, CASTRO EXPRESSED HIS SOLIDARITY WITH FRELIMO, SINGED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND PROMISED TO SUPPLY MOZAMBIQUE WITH CUBAN AID TECHNICIANS. THE TECHNICIANS ARE ALREADY ARRIVING. THEY WILL JOINT A CONTINGENT OF APPROXIMATELY 150-200 OTHER CUBANS ALREADY IN MOZAMBIQUE WORKING AS DOCTORS, AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS AND MILITARY ADVISORS.

7. EAST GERMANY: THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS STRENGTH-ENED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND REMAINS SECOND ONLY TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE IT WIELDS IN MAPUTO. THE EAST GERMANS HAVE DIRECTED THE BULK OF THEIR EFFORTS INTO THREE AREAS: DOMESTIC SECURITY ASSISTANCE, THE MEDIA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARTY AND STATE BUREAUCRACIES. GDR OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY TRAINING AND ADVISING THE LOCAL SECURITY SERVICE, WORKING WITH OFFICIALS IN MOZAMBIQUE'S MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND ADVISING PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON HOW TO RESTRUCTURE THE STATE BU-REAUCRACY ALONG AMARXIST-ELNINIST LINES. OTHER EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE WORKING IN THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

8. OTHER COMMUNIST STATES: SIX OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE MISSIONS AND ARE ACTIVE IN MOZAMBIQUE THE BULGARIANS
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ARE PROVIDING ABOUT 100 ADVISORS IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS, INCLUDING HEALTH AND EDUCATION. THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE SUPPLIED A TEAM OF DOCTORS AND OFFERED TRAINING COURSES FOR AT LEAST 50 MOZAMBICANS IN NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER, THE MAIN THRUST OF KOREAN ACTIVITIES CONTINUES TO BE DRUMMING UP PRO-NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA AND SUPPORT. AFTER STARTING SLOWY, THE ROMANIANS HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR ACTIVIES. IN MID-1976 THE ROMANIANS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON TEHNIICAL

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COOPERATION WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND IN MAY 1977 SUPPLIED 30
ADVISORS TO MANAGE THE NEWLY-NATIONALIZED SONAP-SONAREP
OIL REFINERY. YUGOSLAVIA HAS MAINTAINED A RELATIVELY LOW
PROFILE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE MADE SOME ARMS SALES IN VERY
LIMITED AMOUNTS. THE VIETNAMESE AND THE HUNGARIANS HAVE
RECENTLY ESTABLISHED EMBASSIES HERE, AND THE HUNGARIANS HAVE
RECENTLY ESTABLISHED EMBASSIES HERE, BUT HAVE NOT AS YET
CONTRIBUTED TO MOZAMBIQUE'S MILITARY OR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

9. GPRM INDEPENDENCE: WHILE THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT HAS
UNDOUBTEDLY DRAWN CLOSER TO ITS "NATURAL ALLIES," PARTICULAR-
LY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR, WE BELIEVE FRELIMO LEADERS
ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE
COMMUNIST ORBIT AND TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR
WESTERN COUNTRIES. WE THINK MOZAMBIQUE LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO
DENY THE SOVIETS BASE RIGHTS HERE AND WILL RESIST ANY PRES-
SURE FROM COMMUNIST STATES TO ADOPT POLICIES WHICH THEY PERCEIVE
NO TO BE IN MOZAMBIQUE'S INTERESTS. HOWEVER, UNTIL THE RHODESIAN
SITUATION IS SETTLED AND MOZAMBIQUE'S NEED TO OBTAIN LARGE
AMOUNT OF MILITARY WEAPONS HAVE DIMINSHED, THE COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES WILL REMAIN IN A COMMANDING POSITION HERE'
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